

Message Text

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46

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-05 IGA-01 EB-07 CAB-02 /028 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB - CLSTERMER;MFG

APPROVED BY EA/TB - GBROBERTS

S/NM - JRAFFERTY (SUBS.)

AID/SER/INC - RBROWN (DRAFT)

AID/COM/TR - OPAULSON (DRAFT)

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O 301714Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: HELICOPTER DELIVERY POSTPONED

REF: RANGOON 1390

1. WE REGRET HAVING TO INFORM YOU THAT, DUE TO UNEXPECTED LAST MINUTE DIFFICULTIES, THE SCHEDULED DELIVERY OF TWO HELICOPTERS THIS WEEKEND HAS BEEN POSTPONED. WE ARE PLANNING NOW TO AIRLIFT THE HELICOPTERS BY ALTERNATIVE AIRCRAFT O/A JUNE 12. WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS AND ANY POSSIBLE FURTHER CHANGES. (FYI: STATE/AID WORKING AROUND STRIKE SITUATION AT BELL. END FYI).

2. BELL INSTRUCTOR PILOT (IP) LARRY BOLES PLANS TO BE IN RANGOON O/A JUNE 2 TO CONDUCT A PILOT GROUND SCHOOL COURSE BEFORE THE HELICOPTERS ARRIVE. UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN BANGKOK THIS WEEKEND, HE WILL CABLE RANGOON WITH SPECIFIC FLIGHT DATA. BELL TECH REP., HOWEVER, BECAUSE

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OF ABOVE POSTPONEMENT, WILL BE ARRIVING AT A LATER DATE.

ETA WILL FOLLOW. BOTH MEN HAVE VISAS FOR SEVEN DAYS ONLY. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEM (PARA 2 REFTTEL) APPEAR FINE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SEVERAL OTHER BELL OFFICIALS ALSO MAY BE TRAVELLING TO RANGOON SOON IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROGRAM.

3. WE WILL FORWARD NAMES AND OTHER PERTINENT DATA ON AIR-LIFT CREW MEMBERS PLUS FLIGHT CLEARANCE INFORMATION WHEN AVAILABLE.

4. WE ARE PLEASED TO LEARN THAT BAF PLANS TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH HELI-ORIENT IN SINGAPORE FOR FOLLOW-ON SPARE PARTS.

5. PLEASE ADVISE BURMESE OFFICIALS THAT WE REGRET THIS FINAL HOUR POSTPONEMENT BUT THAT WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MAKE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS BY OTHER AIR-CRAFT FOR EXPEDITIOUS DELIVERY.

6. FOR BANGKOK: PLEASE ASSIST BELL IP BOLES AS APPROPRIATE. INGERSOLL

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